

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A post-harvest treatment method for the suppression of biological infestation and subsequent rot in harvested crops comprising applying to the harvested crop a formulation comprising a mixture of (a) a wax and (b) an elastomer, with the proviso that said formulation after applied to at least a portion of said crop, will provide a substantially solid sealing layer which exhibits elasticity and flexibility over a temperature range of from about 38 degrees Fahrenheit to about 120 degrees Fahrenheit, and said sealing layer reduces the incidence and severity of rot by sealing in moisture and reducing the amount of oxygen available to support fungal growth.
2. The process as set forth in claim 1 wherein said wax is selected from the group consisting of paraffin, microcrystalline, beeswax, Fischer-Tropsch, alpha olefin, polyethylene wax, and mixtures thereof.
3. The process set forth in claim 1, whenever said elastomer is selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, synthetic rubber, ethylene vinyl acetate, atactic polypropylene, neoprene (isoprene), and mixtures thereof.
4. The process as set forth in claim 1, wherein said wax is present in said formulation in the range of from about 10% by weight to about 99% by weight based on the total weight of the formulation.
5. The process as set forth in claim 1, wherein said elastomer is present in said formulation in the range of from about 1% by weight to about 90% by weight based on the total weight of the formulation.
6. The process as set forth in claim 1, wherein the formulation is used for the post-harvest treatment of said crop and is applied thereto by dipping or spraying at least a portion of said crop with the formulation.
7. The process as set forth in claim 1, wherein said crop is a fruit, flower or vegetable.
8. The process as set forth in claim 1, wherein said crop is a banana, plantain or pineapple.
9. The process as set forth in claim 1 wherein said formulation is a mixture of paraffin and microcrystalline wax and synthetic rubber or a mixture of atactic polypropylene and paraffin and microcrystalline wax.

10. A composition of matter useful for treating harvested crops in order to reduce infestation thereof, which composes a mixture of (a) wax and (b) elastomer, with the proviso that said mixture, after applied to at least a portion of said crop, will provide a substantially solid, non-sticky barrier layer which exhibits elasticity and flexibility over a temperature range of from about 38 degrees Fahrenheit to about 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
11. The composition as set forth in claim 10, wherein said wax is selected from the group consisting of paraffin, microcrystalline, beeswax, Fischer-Tropsch, petrolatum, alpha olefin, polyethylene wax, and mixtures thereof.
12. The composition as set forth in claim 10, wherein said elastomer is selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, synthetic rubber, ethylene vinyl acetate, atactic polypropylene, neoprene (isoprene), and mixtures thereof.
13. The composition as set forth in claim 10, wherein said wax is present in said mixture in the range of from about 10% by weight to about 99% by weight based on the total weight of the mixture.
14. The composition as set forth in claim 10, wherein said elastomer is present in said mixture in the range of from about 1% by weight to about 90% by weight, based on the total weight of the mixture.
15. The composition as set forth in claim 10, wherein said mixture is paraffin and microcrystalline wax and butyl rubber or a mixture of microcrystalline wax, paraffin and atactic polypropylene.